From: rossi@math.udel.edu@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Renata B. Hesse,

   I am writing to express my concern about the Department of Justice's
proposed settlement in the Microsoft Antitrust case. There is no
question that Microsoft has done irreparable harm to the US economy and
US consumers by stifling or "acquiring" superior products and
technologies, and limiting consumers' choices of operating systems.
This matter has been decided in federal court.

   Unfortunately, the settlement proposed does not effectively curb
Microsoft's monopoly power. They still integrate and bundle Explorer
into their operating system forcing Netscape, which is a comparable if
not superior product, into an "add-on" status. The same is true with
their media player product. In fact, Windows is riddled with a variety
of services (called middleware) that are bundled in with their OS in an
attempt to wipe out competition by reducing them to "add on" status.

   The key issue is that the manufacturer of an OS is using their
position unfairly to make their applications more competitive. In the
past, they have hobbled their standard API's that competitors must use,
and reserve more optimal "back door" subroutine calls for their own
products. Developers need full access to Windows API source code. OEMs
ought to be allowed to high third parties to modify Windows to suit
their hardware needs. Finally, the current DOJ deal relies on OEMs to
provide a competitive alternative to Windows while the settlement does
nothing to restore competition as is usually the case with antitrust
resolutions.

   I think Microsoft makes a fine product, but their actions have caused
many other fine products from ever appearing on computers. This
activity is un-American and serious controls should be placed on
Microsoft to control their practices. Sadly, the settlement hardly
comes close. Please serve the American people by revising this
settlement.

   Sincerely,
    Louis Rossi

CC: rossi@math.udel.edu@inetgw